EQUALITY COLORADO

The EQUAL Times

The Newsletter of Equality Colorado

Fall '97
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The Anti-Violence Project: Stop the Violence

FROM THE TIME THEY MET, *Gary and Steve were inseparable. Gary's friends envied him for finding such an attractive, charming and devoted partner. At bars or parties, Steve never left his side. They appeared to be the perfect couple -- until the night Gary made the mistake of talking to someone else at a social gathering. He was later admitted to the hospital with a three-inch gash in his head from a broken beer bottle. It wasn't the first time Steve had hit him in a fit of jealousy. It was just the worst time.*

Donna had just finished a late dinner with friends and was headed home to get some much-needed sleep before work the next day. As she walked through the parking lot to her car, four men approached her, making comments about her appearance and her sexual orientation. When she tried to ignore them and get to the safety of her car, one of the men grabbed her and started to choke her. She was able to fight back and free herself by the time police arrived.

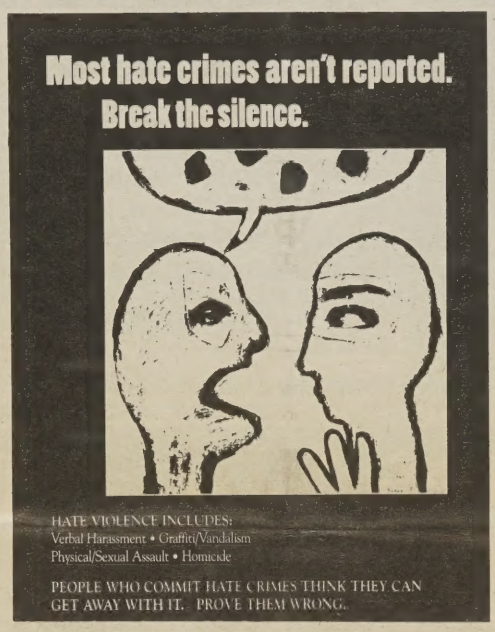
In both these cases, and in many more, the Anti-Violence Project of Equality Colorado was there to help. Founded in 1990, the Anti-Violence Project (AVP) is a non-profit service available to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender populations of Colorado. It is funded through federal and state grants from the Victims of Crime Act, Victim's Assistance and The Violence Against Women Act, as well as monies from the Gill Foundation and private contributions. The program was originally offered through the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community Services Center of Colorado, but was moved to Equality Colorado when the Center restructured in June of 1996. Since September, 1996, the program has been headed by Michelle Drea, a Denver attorney with a background in counseling, domestic violence and victim's advocacy. It is currently the only victims-assistance program in the state offering services specifically to the GLBT population.

"I do it because when you're helping people in times of crisis, it can be the most devastating time in their life and that leaves the most room to help someone," says Drea. "That's the most gratifying aspect of my job. I can be proud of using my knowledge and skills to work for a truly just society."

The AVP offers services to victims of domestic violence, hate crimes, sexual assault and random violence. Under Drea's direction, trained volunteers respond 24 hours a day to callers seeking crisis

continued on p. A3

24-hour crisis hotline
(303) 852-5094


Most hate crimes aren't reported.
Break the silence.
HATE VIOLENCE INCLUDES:
Verbal Harassment • Graffiti/Vandalism
Physical/Sexual Assault • Homicide
PEOPLE WHO COMMIT HATE CRIMES THINK THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH IT. PROVE THEM WRONG.

One of the series of AVP outreach posters by artist Dan Ragland, who is profiled on p. A1.

Meet the AVP

Check out our special Anti-Violence Project Insert after p. 4

AVP Poster Campaign p. A1... HIV Violence p. A1 ... Domestic Violence p. A2...Youth Violence p. A3 ... Hate Crimes p. A4

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Charting The Future
Reclaiming The Past
October Is Lesbian & Gay History Month
Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

A History of Our Own

by Karen Main

Documenting Amendment 2

COLORADO MADE HISTORY with the events surrounding Amendment 2 and the Supreme Court decision in *Romer v. Evans*. We're now in a unique position where we can take steps to insure that this period in Colorado's history is documented and preserved for future generations of historians, authors and academics. Currently this effort is underway at the Colorado Historical Society (CHS) with the development of a series of archives called the **Amendment 2 Project.**

Over the past thirty years, CHS has documented Colorado's GLBT communities by collecting newsletters, organizational materials and individual memoirs. The Amendment 2 Project, however, is the first concerted effort undertaken by the Society to document and preserve a specific period in Colorado's queer history. The project is the brainchild of Stan Oliner, Curator of Books and Manuscripts at the Society. In 1994, Stan put out a call for a student volunteer to help design and coordinate this collection. As a student of queer history, I jumped on the chance.

MORE AND MORE GAYS AND LESBIANS, as well as mainstream institutions such as universities, libraries and museums, are recognizing that histories of gay and lesbian communities are part of local history. To date, there are over 100 GLBT archives in the United States and other countries. Traditionally, GLBT archives have been the property of

continued on p. 6

Upcoming Events

Ally for Justice Reception
Honoring Gov. Roy Romer
Monday, Nov. 10, 1997

Eulipions Cultural Center
1770 Sherman St, Denver
To Benefit Equality Colorado • $30
For more information, see page 7
Call (303) 839-5540

Also, come to:

- Claiming the Western Spirit (p. 3)
- Cheshire Ball (p. 4)
- Joycelyn Elders (p. 7)

Supporting Equality

EQUALITY COLORADO relies on community, foundation and corporate support to continue our work of building community, creating safer environments for all, addressing public policy issues, and mobilizing an informed constituency. As an individual, there are many things you can do to support this work. We are grateful for all that you can do -- and are doing -- to work for liberty and justice for all....no exceptions.

Here are 10 ways that you can support the work of Equality Colorado.

What to do → How to do it

What to do	How to do it
1. **Join** our Equity Fund sustainer program with annual, quarterly or monthly giving options.	*1. Write a check, use a credit card, or do an automatic bank withdrawal program.*
2. **Volunteer** - spend some time helping out at the office, on our Anti-Violence Project hotline, at events, or in the community.	*2. We have volunteer opportunities during the day, in the evenings, & often on weekends. If you make time for us, we'll make time for you!*
3. **Give** through Community Shares of Colo. if your workplace is part of the Community Shares campaign.	*3. If your workplace does not offer Community Shares, call them at (303) 861-7507 to see how it can.*
4. **Attend** an Equality Colorado event or write a check.	*4. See page 7 for some great upcoming events!*
5. **Tell** your friends about what we do -- pass along this newsletter -- spread the word.	*5. Maybe start them off slowly -- with the Notable Quotables on the back. Then get a discussion going!*
6. **Come out** as a GLBT person or as an ally if you are safe to do so.	*6. National Coming Out Day was Oct. 11; why wait 'till next year?*
7. **Become** a constituent activist - call your elected officials, write letters to the editor, and more!	*7. Call us at (303) 839-5540 or email equalityco@aol.com to get on our activist network!*
8. **Challenge** myths, stereotypes and derogatory jokes that you hear.	*8. The best way to fight misinformation and hate is with truth and love.*
9. **Host** an Equality Colorado house party.	*9. Call us! We've got a kit ready to go to help you out.*
10. **Vote!**	*10. Become as educated as you can.*

Board Games Danni Lederman

AFTER THE SUPREME COURT DECISION, I thought, "what a great victory, now I can take a breather and relax, things in my world are looking better." Great victory, absolutely. Take a breather and relax? No way.

Things in my world, post Amendment 2 Supreme Court decision, are better, but only on a superficial level. The reality is that the Supreme Court decision only restored my place in the world as it had existed prior to Amendment 2. It was no bed of roses before Amendment 2. There is much work to be done before I can relax.

As the new President of the Board of Directors of Equality Colorado, I look to within our agency and to the communities that we serve and for whom we work, to help us continue to work for "liberty and justice for all...no exceptions." There is much to be done in our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities to "secure equality and justice."

I enjoy a good victory as much as the next person and love a good celebration! I was in New York City when the Supreme Court decision was announced and I can clearly remember the near heart stopping feelings I had when I heard the news. Celebrate I did. But it has finally sunk in that after the celebration we have to get back to work. It's not over yet.

Thanks for your support of Equality Colorado's work and for sharing our belief that "liberty and justice for all...no exceptions" is the bottom line.

Yes! I want to support Equality Colorado's work to secure equality for all....no exceptions.

Name_____ Phone_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

❑ I am interested in Equality's Equity Fund sustainer giving program. Please send me information.

❑ I would like to make a donation of:

___$25 ___$50 ___$75 ___$100 other $_____

Checks should be made payable to *Equality Colorado*, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to which contributions are tax-deductible OR you can charge your donation to your credit card:

VISA or MasterCard (circle one) Card #_____

Expiration date:_____ Signature_____

Return to: Equality Colorado, PO Box 300476, Denver, CO 80203 Phone: (303) 839-5540

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The Equal Times is the quarterly newsletter of Equality Colorado. Equality Colorado's mission is to work to secure equality and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. We seek to create an environment where people are respected, open dialogue is encouraged and the truth is spoken about the diversity of our families and sexual identities.

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Voices of Faith

by Rev. Laurene Lafontaine

Claiming the Western Spirit

Are you (or do you know anyone) on the Western Slope and looking for a way to get more involved? Then come to the *Claiming the Western Spirit* conference to be held on Sat., Nov. 1st, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. at the Catamount Inn in Ridgway, CO. This conference will have workshops on Straight Allies, Marriage Rights, Faith into Politics, Biblical Self-Defense and Liberation, and Spiritual Connections. Rene Calderon is the luncheon keynote speaker. The conference is sponsored by Equality Colorado's Voices of Faith and co-sponsored by Western Equality, PFLAG Durango, Western State GLBA, GLBA of Fort Lewis College and the Durango Faith Community. **Register through Equality Colorado, (303) 839-5540.** The cost including a fantastic lunch at the Catamount Inn is $25 general rate, $15 student rate. Add $10 per person for same-day registration. Please call about low-income and bring-your-lunch rates.

Third Time's a Charm

THE THIRD ANNUAL "CLAIMING THE SPIRIT" CONFERENCE was held July 16-18 at Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church in Denver. Our opening interfaith worship service was a powerful experience in which we heard Dr. John McNeill challenge us to live out our lives as people embracing our sexuality and spirituality. He spoke about the special and honored role of the eunuch within the kingdom of God, citing scriptural passages in Isaiah and the Acts of the Apostles.

He challenged the claim that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are not mentioned in the Bible by lifting up many examples. Dr. McNeill shared out of his wealth of experience as an author, former priest and psychotherapist. As a former Jesuit priest who was expelled for his teachings on homosexuality, he has lived in a deep and profound way the struggle of being a person of faith and gay.

[Carter & Abell's] diverse experiences allowed the audience to begin to make their own connections regarding racial discrimination and white privilege.

Another highlight of the worship service was the music. The Dignity/Denver choir and the ensemble "Devotion" sang beautifully. For many in the congregation, this provided a positive experience of worshipping in a truly safe and welcoming space. As we worshipped, we were surrounded by over 400 beautiful stoles from the Shower of Stoles Project. The stoles, a part of clergy garb, represented those GLBT persons who are ordained and serve the church in silence, those who are out and could not be ordained because of discriminatory denominational policies, those who are out and serving, and "signature" stoles signed by heterosexual allies. On Friday evening, Martha Juillerat, director of the Stoles Project, presented a program in which several of the stories behind the stoles were told. Indeed it was a powerful experience listening to many voices embodied through this display.

THE "CLAIMING THE SPIRIT '97" conference committee chose to focus on two major issues within the GLBT communities: transgender education and anti-racism work. Dana Cicotello and Tacy Aaron Hans spoke about their lives as transgender activists, particularly from a faith perspective. Their excellent presentation was greatly appreciated because there continues to be a lack of knowledge regarding trans issues, especially within faith communities, and there is still much work to be done around transphobia within the lesbigay community as well. Dana and Tacy did a wonderful job of addressing the need for more education and dialogue about being inclusive.

On Saturday, the focus was on anti-racism. Mandy Carter and Dr. Ellen Abell opened the morning plenary by providing anti-oppression theory, history and personal experiences in doing anti-racism work. Their diverse experiences allowed the audience to begin to make their own connections regarding racial discrimination and white privilege. The workshop sessions which followed had a number of offerings which dealt directly with racism and the tools to begin to undo the ever-present racism found in the GLBT communities and society at large.

THE CONFERENCE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS, although we were small in numbers. The conversations about some of the tough issues facing GLBT communities and faith communities were profound. Not so much in what was said, but rather that the discussion was happening. Workshops on bisexuality, paganism, Buddhism, internalized homophobia, the Bible, doing anti-racism work, youth issues, etc., allowed for conversations about how we live together as a larger community. Indeed, people did claim the spirit -- the spirit of justice, inclusion, peace and community.

The conference could not have happened without the incredible VOF conference committee. This year's committee did a fabulous job. The members were Debra Rose, Gabriel Hermelin, Elizabeth Holman, Bob Lohrentz, Rev. Elaine Hinnant, Vanessa Briggs, Marlene Martin, and Nicki Sheurwater. I must add that Nicki Sheurwater provided outstanding leadership and wonderful organizational skills that made this conference a huge success. Her mother, "Grandma Pat" made fabulous cookies and refreshments.

The entire committee was a joy to work with and made my job so much easier.

Thank you!

Pictured: Rev. Laurene Lafontaine and Martha Juillerat, with the Shower of Stoles.

Upcoming VOF events

To register and/or for more information about these programs, please call Rev. Laurene Lafontaine at Equality Colorado's office (303) 839-5540 x3 or email eclaurene@aol.com.

Clergy Roundtable on "Addressing the Violence within and against the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Communities."

Wednesday Nov. 19, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Park Hill Congregational Church, 2600 Leyden St. in Denver.
This clergy roundtable will be a discussion regarding two types of violence experienced by the GLBT communities: hate crimes and domestic violence. We will explore the pastoral care issues involved and the role of faith communities.

Biblical Liberation for GLBT Concerns

Saturday, December 6th 9am-12pm
We don't have to throw the baby out with the bath water. Much to the chagrin of those who use the bible as a weapon against GLBT persons, there is a significant amount of biblical research now being done which lifts up the positive examples of same-sex and bisexual relationships and transgender people found in the Bible. This workshop builds on previous Biblical Self Defense workshops. We will discuss how the Bible can be a source of comfort and inspiration for GLBT communities.

Announcing a new Spiritual/Education Series

We are beginning a new VOF program in November. VOF will offer a fall, winter and spring four week long spiritual/education series. The fall series is **"Integrating our Sexuality and Spirituality: An Interfaith Perspective."** This series will address topics such as the difference between religion and spirituality, understanding God and oneself, the role of forgiveness and ritual, and developing a healthy spirituality. The fall dates are Nov. 11, 18, 25 and Dec. 2, and will run from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Plan ahead....The winter series topic is **"Healing from Religious Contradictions"** and will meet on Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9 and 16. The spring series topic is **"Spirituality and Relationships"** and will meet on March 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Monthly spiritual support group?

Are you interested in a monthly spiritual support group? There has been some interest in having monthly meetings of specific faith perspectives such as CLOUT (Christians Lesbians Out United Together), Buddhist GLBT, Jewish GLBT, Christian Men, etc. VOF will help organize these meetings if there is enough interest from the GLBT communities. Give Laurene a call at Equality if you are interested in participating in this type of spiritual group.

Pagan discussion group meets monthly

The Hearthstone discussion group, a Pagan group, meets monthly on the first Sunday from 1-4 p.m. at Herbs and Arts, 2105 E. Colfax (cross street is Race) in Denver. For more information, call Rev. Alia Denny at (303) 680-1741.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world -- Indeed it's the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead

Fighting Back

Beating the Right at its own game

by Soyun Park and Bill Vandenberg

COLORADO'S LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY and its allies have been a very attractive target for religious political extremists in our state for too long. We have all been used by the radical right to help fill their bloated organizational budgets and, unfortunately, this is not likely to stop anytime soon (can anyone say "state legislature?"). One of the keys to building a statewide movement for GLBT civil rights, a movement that can successfully fight back against the right, is to identify and cultivate links between other communities similarly under attack. How does one do this, you ask? Read on!

From our travels around the state with our organization -- the Colorado Progressive Coalition (CPC) -- we know that the GLBT community is not alone in being the target of divisive and destructive efforts from the political right. We see it in Greeley, where Latino families struggle with a public school system that discriminates and where the local university makes incomplete and insincere efforts to recruit and retain students of color. We see it in Denver, where the homeless and working poor are pushed further out of the city in favor of sports bars and gentrification. We see it on the West Slope, where immigrants recruited to exclusive resort towns to do the work you and I won't do are instead treated like cattle and rounded up by local authorities because of their national origin. We see it in Boulder, where low-income residents of the city's trailer parks are uprooted in favor of the next $300,000 town home development. And we see it statewide, where affirmative action civil rights programs are under attack by legislators and others who say that discrimination no longer exists. In short, Colorado's diverse communities are all under attack and we need to look beyond our own community's struggles to recognize that an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us.

What can we -- *Equal Times* readers -- do to build relationships with others under attack? How can we show our support for other communities and break down stereotypes that exist while building relationships and friendships that will help us when we face the next homophobic and hateful proposal?

Don't understand unions? Talk to your favorite supermarket checker or UPS driver.

What we can do -- what you can do -- is to get involved today. Don't understand unions? Talk to your favorite supermarket checker or your UPS driver and ask them what's going on. Think affirmative action programs are no longer needed? Ask a working woman or person of color about the daily challenges of the "glass ceiling." Become aware of the challenges others are facing and offer to help. By

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BUILDING A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

A View from DC

Interview with Tracey Conaty, field organizer National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

Q. What is the Federation of Statewide LGBT Political Organizations?

A. It's essentially a network of all the state groups in the country that the Task Force is coordinating. The Federation is based on two premises:

1) State groups know best — issues, problems, solutions. By networking and sharing resources, ideas and experiences, each group will be more effective in its work.

2) It's important to have good communication and coordination among all our organizations — local, state, and national.

The Federation will meet twice a year. At our first meeting in July, we found that we really learned from each other. Not everyone has to learn from trial and error. Not each group has to reinvent the wheel.

Q. How can smaller communities be more involved in the national work of NGLTF?

A. I really see working with statewide organizations as a key at this point. As state groups are essential to the work of national organizations, local groups are essential to the work of statewide organizations, because we're all part of a whole.

NGLTF remains committed to working with local organizations, providing them resources, support, and needed technical assistance. Our work with the federation doesn't change that commitment. In fact, we hope that the result of the States' Federation will benefit local organizations as well -- sort of a ripple effect. Beyond that, the Task Force's annual Creating Change Conference is a critical resource for all LGBT activists in all spheres. Everyone should go.

Q. Can you talk about issues of local control and autonomy in aligning with a larger movement?

A. We deal with that on a national level all the time, with the Federation, etc. It's a universal concern. Part of what needs to happen is basic trust in each other -- that our ultimate goal is to aid each other and build a movement. Of course, trust needs to be earned, but we need to find a balance between the needed and wanted autonomy on the one hand, and the need to build working relationships that move us forward. Sometimes that means giving up, or sharing turf.

This is a long-standing issue in our movement. I saw it constantly as a local organizer in DC. When it's turf for turf's sake, we all lose, but there are legitimate reasons for the need and desire for autonomy. People who are living the problem day in and day out *are the experts*. And so it's important the the folks who are living in the communities in which political activities occur must be integral to the decisions that are made and the acts that are taken. It's essential.

We need to remember that bringing in different perspectives is valuable, that these perspectives and experiences are part of the resources we each bring to the table. If we don't work together, then we're depriving ourselves of support that can make a difference in whether we are free or not.

Tracey Conaty is the featured speaker at "JUSTICE. NOW.", *Equality Colorado's first annual statewide organizing conference, held October 18-19, 1997 in Glenwood Springs.*

The Cheshire Ball

October 31, 1997

Tivoli Opera House
Auraria Campus
901 Larimer Street
Denver, Colorado

Patron's Reception 7:30pm to 9:00pm
The Cheshire Ball 9:00pm to Midnight

a benefit for
Colorado's Children's Organizations

sponsored by
Colorado's
Gay and Lesbian
Community

The Cheshire Ball tickets $50
Individual Patrons $150 - $250
for information, call (303) 758-1950

Call for Interns!!!

IF YOU ARE A STUDENT and are interested in gaining meaningful experience doing vital work, let us know. Our internship program allows students to design their own adventure: in public policy, community education and organizing, religious organizing, victims services, and more. Previous Equality interns have gone on to jobs in social work, politics, and non-profit organizing. Call us now at (303) 839-5540 or email us at equalityco@aol.com.

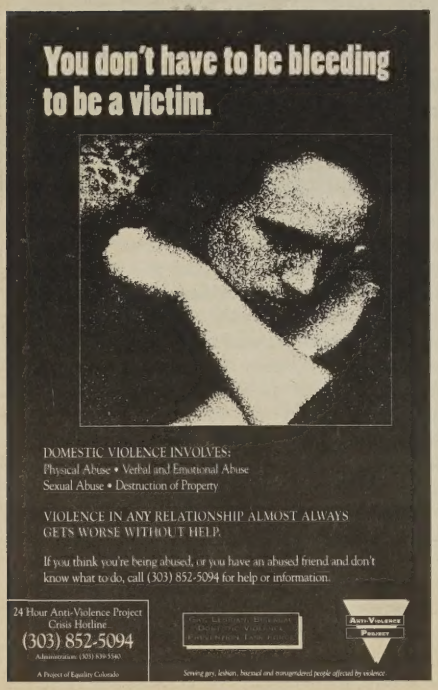
"It was a truly valuable experience," says former intern Jonathan Kelley. "And I'm not just saying that because it's my job now."

If you are self-motivated and interested in issues of justice and equality for all, Equality Colorado is the place for you. Call now -- operators are standing by.

ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

Meet the AVP

A special insert of *The EQUAL Times*


You don't have to be bleeding to be a victim.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVOLVES:
Physical Abuse • Verbal and Emotional Abuse
Sexual Abuse • Destruction of Property
VIOLENCE IN ANY RELATIONSHIP ALMOST ALWAYS GETS WORSE WITHOUT HELP.
If you think you're being abused, or you have an abused friend and don't know what to do, call (303) 852-5094 for help or information.
24 Hour Anti-Violence Project Crisis Hotline
(303) 852-5094
Administration: (303) 839-5540
A Project of Equality Colorado
Anti-Violence Project
Serving gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people affected by violence

Poster #2 in Dan Ragland's AVP series.

You can get these posters yourself to hang at local queer hangouts. Call us at (303) 839-5540 or email us at equalityco@aol.com, and we'll get you as many copies as you can effectively use.

Poster Campaign Raises Awareness of Violence

by Jonathan Kelley

Their visual impact? Striking. Their purpose? Vital. Their location? Bathroom stalls.

We're talking about the poster campaign for the Anti-Violence Project, which intends to reach the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender victims of violence who may not otherwise access AVP's services. Two of the three have been completed -- domestic violence and hate crimes. Another, regarding sexual assault, is in the works.

They go in bars, clubs, and other hangouts, and usually are put in the place where victims may have a brief respite and a few seconds to read the posters -- the stalls in the bathrooms. There, they can tear off the cards which have the 24-hour crisis hotline and call later. The location of the posters is very important. So is the art.

It's art in the service of community. At the most basic level, it's art that has made a difference in people's lives. Maybe even saved a life.

"A poster has to communicate in two seconds. It has to communicate quickly enough so that they read on, or take one of the pull-offs. It needs to be aggressive enough to get their interest, and it also has to manipulate them emotionally," says the creator of the poster series, Denver artist Dan Ragland. Ragland is a professional fine artist who "pays the bills" thanks to his graphic design work. I sat down and spoke with him recently about the poster campaign.

I asked him the difference between "graphic art" and "fine art." To him, it's about the intent and the response. "Graphic art is always done to sell or promote something," he says. "With [fine] art, there may be intent -- but it's the artist's intent, which has nothing to do with the customer. How a viewer responds is *completely subjective*."

People are definitely responding to Ragland's work on the AVP campaign. According to Michelle Drea, director of AVP, the tear-offs are being torn off. And the visibility the campaign has provided for the project is incalculably important.

"I think of the two posters as part of a series, both trying to get a group of people -- victims -- to call, and giving them different ways to call. In both cases, the immediate message of the poster is 'Don't put up with this. We can help you.'

"With the domestic violence poster I started with a photo, took out most of the detail, and made it grainy on the computer. This made it less gender- or person-specific It's more of a mood piece.

"Most people think that DV means you get beat up. This poster shows isolation -- it suggests subtler kinds of DV -- it tells victims: 'You may think this is status quo, but in fact you could be in an abusive situation.'"

The hate crimes poster was "a drawing I did eight or nine years ago [collage and oil media on paper] about a moment between two people; it shows intensity with clear *innocence* on one part."

What has he learned working on this campaign? "I wasn't surprised about hate crimes. Hate crimes are something you hear about. I was surprised to learn about domestic violence -- how much damage we do to ourselves."

"It makes me feel good to do work for something so positive. AVP is a good program because it's so direct -- there are no layers of corporate crap." It's direct service to victims.

Insult to Injury: HIV Related Violence and Partner Abuse

by Ryan Kennedy

Living successfully with HIV today involves a comprehensive, determined and systemic approach to health maintenance and illness prevention. This form of approach not only looks at how people live with HIV and AIDS, but also takes into account the social and political impact that the AIDS epidemic has made on individuals and society alike.

Living with HIV is not only about understanding the medical, pharmacologic and psychosocial factors that accompany this disease. It is also about confronting and overcoming the stigma that still exists in regard to those who are living with HIV -- as well as those implied to be living with it because of their associations or appearance. Because of this stigma, the battle against HIV essentially has two layers. The first layer is the provision of treatment and services individually. The second layer is less obvious and addresses the societal phenomenon of stigma and fear as they are associated with AIDS. Stigma and fear can lead to HIV related violence, which is a crucial co-factor to be seriously considered and addressed in the ongoing treatment of people and a planet living with AIDS.

HIV related violence...is a crucial co-factor to be seriously considered and addressed in the ongoing treatment of people and a planet living with AIDS.

The following descriptions of HIV related violence are paraphrased a manual put together by the New York City Anti-Violence Project:

DISCRIMINATION Discrimination is the most common form of victimization faced by people with HIV/AIDS. HIV discrimination in housing employment, and public accommodations is illegal.

VERBAL HARASSMENT Using derogatory, belittling, or "fighting" language (language that directly attacks a person's racial, ethnic, gender or sexual identity) to dehumanize or humiliate another person. Sometimes verbal harassment can escalate into physical assault.

BIAS ASSAULT People living with HIV/AIDS may be the targets of criminal activities such as muggings, robberies or attacks because they may appear sick or disabled and thus, "an easy target." This is considered a bias crime or "hate crime" (see p. A4 for more).

ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT BY SERVICE PROVIDERS People with HIV/AIDS may be mistreated, neglected or denied services because of their diagnosis. It is against the law for hospitals, home health agencies, ambulances, doctors, police officers, or other public servants to refuse services or deny care to individuals in need. Therefore this type of treatment is a form of HIV related violence.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PARTNER ABUSE This includes any form of abuse or coercive control by a lover, relative, spouse, friend or roommate. Many different forms of violence or control may be used to manipulate the victim's behavior, such as physical, emotional, sexual, or economic abuse. A partner's HIV/AIDS status may be used as a reason or "excuse" to engage in abusive behavior. Examples include revealing a partner's HIV status without permission, threatening to leave an ill partner, forcing unsafe sex, using a partner's HIV status as a reason for having sex outside the relationship and withholding important medications as a means of asserting power.

Violence is the process of establishing power and control over a person or group in order to coerce them into certain behaviors or states of mind. It can manifest as an actual event or it can be attained by threatening that an unwanted event might occur if compliance is not maintained.

In order to combat the kind of violence perpetrated against people living HIV and AIDS that has been described, we as individuals and a culture must look to a broader definition of HIV treatment. We need to recognize the fact that HIV related violence exists. We must name the violence against individuals living with HIV and AIDS, and continue to address the social systems that perpetuate the fear and stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS. This is the part of the battle against HIV that medicine or science can't treat.

Ryan Kennedy, MA, ADTR, LPC, CACIII, RN is Clinical Coordinator with Colorado AIDS Project. He's also a private practice psychotherapist.

Meet the AVP

Domestic Violence

ESTIMATES ARE THAT AS MANY AS FORTY PERCENT *of GLBT couples experience some form of abuse, which can include physical or verbal assault, sexual abuse or destruction of property. Although domestic violence (DV) occurs year round, incidents increase in the summer and around the holidays. In cases of domestic violence, restraining orders are often obtained and court testimony is paramount. The AVP provides help and support during this time, including attending court with, and advocating for, the victim. In Denver, courts have been helpful and have attempted to make the process as comfortable as possible. Group support is also important.*

Director's Cut

by Sue Anderson

WE HEAR ABOUT IT EVERY DAY. We've all read about it or know someone who has lived it or we've lived it ourselves. The headlines assault us with another domestic violence murder or attack. News reports talk about someone being stalked by a batterer. The images are usually of a scared woman fearful of the next attack by her man and too scared or economically dependent to leave. The images are usually heterosexual.

The reality though of domestic violence is that it happens across all class, racial or gender lines and it happens to same-sex couples too. It happens for all the same myriad of reasons: growing up in a violent home, isolation, substance abuse, power and control dynamics and living in an increasingly violent society. For same-sex couples, the stress of increased isolation and lack of social supports for the relationship may exacerbate the problem. And it doesn't just happen in intimate relationships, it may happen within a family when someone comes out and a sibling, parent, ex-spouse or whomever can't deal with knowing that person in their family is gay.

No one wants to talk about it, but we must. In the GLBT communities, we cannot bury our heads about the problem. We have to acknowledge it and deal with it just as the rest of the world needs to. This is why we operate the Anti-Violence Project. Through the AVP, we provide 24 hour crisis intervention services to GLBT people who have been victims of crime, whether that crime is domestic violence, hate violence, sexual assault or a random crime. We provide court advocacy and limited case management. Our work doesn't stop there, it is also about working to prevent crimes and educate our communities about how to be safe. We also educate service providers and law enforcement about how to serve us better. Through this program, we are working to create a safer and saner world for us all. We can't do it alone though, we need you too. Together we must break the silence and speak out to end the violence.

AVP to offer group support

GROUP SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE can be an invaluable way to heal the wounds from these relationships. The groups allow victims the knowledge that they are not alone and offer a forum in which to share their feelings in a supportive environment with people who have had similar experiences.

The Anti-Violence Project is offering support groups for victims of domestic violence. The starting date will be early 1998. The support group will be facilitated by two peer counselors.

In order to participate in the group, you must go through a brief interview process with Michelle Drea, AVP Director. This interview can be scheduled at any time between now and January 1998. The AVP can also offer short term counseling in the intervening period until the support group begins.

If anyone who has experience with support groups, counseling , or psychology is interested in becoming a peer counselor please contact Michelle Drea at P.O. Box 300476, Denver, CO 80203, (303)839-5540 or ecmichelle@aol.com.

Resources

CURRENTLY, THE MAIN RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS of domestic violence throughout the state are battered women's shelters. These shelters can provide counseling, shelter, and advocacy. Many of these shelters are friendly to lesbians and bisexual women, and many have lesbians and bisexual women on staff. If you are unsure of a shelter's level of safety for women in same-sex relationships, do some investigating before referring these women.

Battered women's shelters **do not** provide resources for male victims of domestic violence; if a gay or bisexual male victim of same-sex DV needs safe shelter, he has no such resource available. The victim may find other resources for obtaining a restraining order or counseling but there is no safe place for a gay male victim to go at the present time. This is a dire situation and needs to be addressed. Anyone who is interested in working on this issue should call Michelle Drea at (303)839-5540.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST of Denver metro area resources for DV victims. If you are outside of the metro area and need help please contact the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence at P.O. Box 18902, Denver, CO 80218 (303) 831-9632 or the AVP at (303) 839-5540 for a referral in your geographic location.

Adams County	
Alternatives to Family Violence	(303) 289-4441
Aurora and Arapahoe County	
Gateway Battered Women's Shelter	(303) 343-1851
Boulder County	
Boulder County Safehouse	(303) 444-2424
Longmont Coal. for Women in Crisis	(303) 772-4422
Denver County	
Denver Safehouse	(303) 892-8900
Brandon Center	(303) 920-9190
Denver Victim Services Center	(303) 894-8000
Servicios de la Raza	(303) 458-7088
*Spanish Speaking	
Douglas County	
Women's Crisis Center	(303) 688-8484
Jefferson County	
Women in Crisis	(303) 420-6752

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(303) 830-0343 fax
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Peter Di Leo, LPC
Clinical Coordinator

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Fax: (303) 832-5344
Voice Mail: (303) 370-9488

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Phone: (303) 861-9378
Fax: (303) 839-8306

Bob Schneider

Meet the AVP

Youth Violence

In the street, at school, in the home

Interview with Daniel Romero

Daniel Romero has served as Peer Outreach Counselor for Urban Peak, a shelter for homeless and runaway youth in Denver, for the past nine months. The problem of homelessness among gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) youth is so extreme that Urban Peak has a full-time specialist in the field, Christa Kriesel.

What attracted you to Urban Peak? I really like what they had to offer. I get to work with the Outreach Team -- that's what I love to do. I love helping people. The Outreach Team walks down the 16th St. Mall, down Colfax, through Cheesman Park, meeting youth and handing out information, bleach, condoms, etc.

In my life, I've been very very grateful for having such great parents and such a great coming-out experience. I do realize that I'm very fortunate, I didn't have to go through a lot of the trauma. It hurts me inside when I have to see someone going through that.

How are homeless youth in general affected by violence? They sleep in abandoned buildings, tunnels, and often have to fight for whatever space they can get. That's a major issue in their lives. The violence in their lives, I think, means they can't have a decent relationship with anyone -- even friendships. They find it very hard to trust, etc.

We also see a good deal of self-mutilation. A lot of people see it as a way to get rid of their pain without hurting anyone. People just try to say: It's better to put my fist through a wall than through someone's face. When you deal with that, you have to provide alternatives to anger management.

What about your experience with specific violence affecting GLBTQ youth? They may get in more verbal altercations -- if they fit the stereotype or just look different, they'll catch more of the flack from their peers, people on the street, whoever encounters them. We all know also how tough it can be in schools. Each of these is a factor in the high number of runaways.

Talk about the affect of family abuse on youth. Well, it's a big problem with homeless youth. I think when you abuse someone you violate trust, you violate not only their body but their mind as well. People who encounter others on a day-to-day basis begin to trust each other enough to think that violence won't happen -- when it does occur, it can be devastating. I've witnessed both friends and clients who've gone through emotional abuse and physical abuse.

What anti-violence services does Urban Peak provide? We do a lot of referrals to AVP; we have counselors who can do some one-on-one counseling; but if a person has a long history of abuse, we'll have to report it, and we'll try to find them someone who's better equipped to handle it.

How can readers help these youth? With youth, it's just important to be there: to listen. Then give them the appropriate referrals. I don't personally like to open up to someone if I don't think they're going to listen, and neither do these youth.

I just want to say, to youth who are going through violence: Keep your head up, there are resources out there. It can't rain all the time.

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E-Mail: sullivan@csn.net
TO REPORT A CRIME (303) 795-4711
EMERGENCY 911

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

An on-going support and therapy group for Gay and Bisexual Men who have been or are the targets of abuse or violence in their relationships.

for more information contact
Ryan Kennedy, MA, LPC, CACIII, RN at
303.331.9398

The Anti-Violence Project: Stop the Violence

continued from p. 1

intervention, support, information and advice. Victims can receive assistance and support with the court process, getting restraining orders and testifying, as well as information on medical, legal and long-term counseling services.

OF THE TWENTY TO THIRTY CALLS received by the AVP every month, the majority are related to incidents of domestic violence. Estimates are that as many as 40% of same-sex couples experience some form of abuse. Drea reports that, although domestic violence occurs year round, incidents increase in the summer and around the holidays. In cases of domestic violence, restraining orders are often obtained and court testimony is paramount. The AVP provides help and support during this time, including attending court with, and advocating for, the victim. In the case of Gary and Steve, the AVP counseled Gary and assisted him in getting a restraining order. He is now living safely away from Steve. (See p. A2 for more on domestic violence.)

The second largest percent of the calls received by the AVP are from victims of hate crimes. Even in the absence of a hate-crimes law (see p. A4), the AVP was able to intervene with the police on Donna's behalf and get legal action taken against the men who accosted her. Sexual assault is the third major category of crisis calls.

The AVP also provides information and referral to other organizations wanting information or from other service providers, such as therapists or doctors, wanting to know where they can refer their patients for help. The AVP responds to these calls and is willing to provide training to service providers, raising their level of awareness and effectiveness with their GLBT clients.

ALTHOUGH THE AVP IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE to assist victims of violence, many incidents go unreported and untreated. Victims might be hesitant to call or to press the issue through law enforcement or the courts for several reasons:

- there is no law protecting victims based on sexual orientation or gender identity,
- the perpetrators of the crimes can project to the victims that they must be afraid and silent,
- the victims often blame themselves and many victims are afraid of their sexual orientation becoming known.

Drea assures victims that they can remain completely anonymous if they choose and that the most important goal for any victim is to get help.

The AVP will advocate for victims with law enforcement agencies, which, according to Drea, have been "extremely supportive and helpful." Law enforcement officers serve on the AVP Advisory Committee, and the AVP also has provided in-service trainings to the police departments of Denver, Aurora and Thornton. The police have been quick to respond to any problems that the AVP has reported.

BECAUSE THE ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT is the only program of its kind that deals specifically with GLBT issues, the Project needs the help of the community. Future goals include more community outreach, a toll-free number to allow easier access to victims throughout the state, increased staff, and more support groups for victims. In order for the AVP to grow and flourish, more volunteers are needed. All interventions are done over the phone, with Drea providing short-term follow up. No special education or experience is needed. Volunteers receive 20-30 hours of training on victimization, working with clients, trauma, crisis intervention and related topics. The only expectation is that each volunteer agrees to work a minimum shift of 24 hours, with no requirements as to the frequency of the shifts. Many volunteers have full-time jobs and volunteer on weekends.

If you are unable to volunteer but wish to support the Project you can make a donation. Drea states that "it is important to keep this program alive so that all victims in the GLBT community can receive the help and services they need." Call us at (303) 839-5540.

If you are the victim of a violent crime and need help, or to report incidents of violence, the 24-hour crisis hotline number is (303) 852-5094.

Legislature '98

Meet the AVP

Hate Crimes

AROUND 30 PERCENT OF THE CALLS received by the AVP are from victims of hate crimes. The majority of these crimes are property damage -- graffiti, broken windows. and vandalism. A few involve physical or verbal assault. Although the FBI defines a hate crime as "A criminal offense committed against a person or property which is motivated, in whole or in part, by an offender's hate or bias against a race, religion, ethnic/national origin or sexual orientation group," the legal definition of a hate crime in Colorado does not currently include sexual orientation.

Equality Lobby has sponsored a bill in the legislature for the past three years to have this revised, but the bill has not yet passed, though last year the bill, sponsored by Sen. Dorothy Rupert (D-Boulder), passed the State Senate. This marked the first time that any Equality-sponsored bill passed either legislative house. The bill would also include the categories of age and physical and mental disability. We plan to reintroduce it in 1998.

Approximately 18 other states do have sexual orientation language in their hate crime laws, which can include enhanced penalties or separate charges for hate-related crimes. Of course, even without such a law, victims and the police can take legal action taken against violent perpetrators. But enforcement of the existing law often does not reflect the nature or severity of the crime.

The AVP does track hate-related crimes in Colorado, which could lead to changes in the law in the future. Hate crimes are differentiated from random crimes primarily by the intent behind the crime. The intent can be manifested through things such as:

- the language used when the crime is committed
- the victim's own feelings about the reason for the crime
- where the crime occurred, such as outside a gay bar.

Although the FBI has initiated the Federal Reporting Act, which requests that law enforcement report all hate crimes, including those dealing with sexual orientation, it is not mandatory. Therefore, many hate crimes go unreported to the FBI and national statistics might not be accurate.

Talking Points Hate Crimes Laws

SEND A MESSAGE: Hate crime laws send a clear, unequivocal message to victims, perpetrators, and law enforcement officials that crimes motivated by bigotry and hatred will not be tolerated.

HATE VIOLENCE EXISTS: Anti-gay and other types of hate-motivated violence is alarmingly widespread. A failure to address this critical problem sends a dangerous message to law enforcement and the public that hate violence against gays, older and disabled people (groups not covered in existing law) does not exist, or worse, is somehow less reprehensible than violence against other minorities.

HATE CRIMES ARE TRAUMATIC: Hate crimes have a greater impact on victims than other types of crimes. According to preliminary research by the National Institute Against Prejudice and Violence, victims of bias crimes suffer two to three times more symptoms of trauma than victims of comparable crimes that do not involve prejudice.

SPEECH NOT PUNISHED, CRIMES ARE: When carefully drafted, hate crimes laws do not abridge freedom of speech as guaranteed in the 1st Amendment. In most cases, hate crime laws do not punish speech, but activity that is already defined as criminal. Hate speech that is not accompanied by criminal activity is not punishable. Speech is relevant only in that it is used to assess motivation in the commission of any crime. Likewise, speech is useful in determining whether or not a killing was premeditated, thus differentiating between first degree murder and second degree murder or manslaughter.

HATE CRIME LAWS DO NOT DISCRIMINATE: Regardless of what some would have you believe, hate crime laws do not provide extra privileges to any groups. Rather, such measures afford an extra measure of protection to groups that are singled out for victimization because of their status, identity, or beliefs. Moreover, such laws apply equally to members of minority and majority groups.

Mark your calendars now.

Equality Lobby's Legislative Breakfast and Lobby Day are planned for Friday, January 23, 1998.

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School Board Election Information

Don't forget to vote...

When: Tuesday, November 4, 1997 **OR** some communities will mail ballots to registered voters starting in mid-October.

Where: At your polling place or in some communities by mail.

How do I find out who is running in my district? Call your local election commission or city clerk.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS: WHAT IS AT STAKE?

What youth experience and learn in schools affects them throughout their lives, so it is critical that policies set by school boards allow students to get the information they need. This is an issue of concern to all of us because:

- Lack of information and misinformation about sexual orientation contributes to the high suicide rate for GLBT or questioning youth.
- Negative stereotyping of GLBT people and/or tolerance of anti-gay sentiment helps to create an environment that can be unsafe for students, faculty or staff regardless of their sexual orientation and can contribute to creating a hostile and unsafe environment in the community at large.
- Religious political extremists often use local races such as school boards to launch their political careers and establish themselves as viable candidates for higher office. It is here that they start to push an agenda that limits rights and discourages diversity. They don't always disclose their real agenda when they run.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS: SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Here are some ideas about questions to ask candidates for school board seats:

1. What is your position on including sexual orientation in your school district's anti-discrimination policy for employees?
2. What is your response to the idea of a policy and/or specific measures to address issues of violence, harassment and discrimination against GLBT or questioning students?
3. What is your position on barring any mention of homosexuality in the classroom?
4. What is your position on sex education in schools?

The following questions can get at what kind of sex-education the candidate would support.

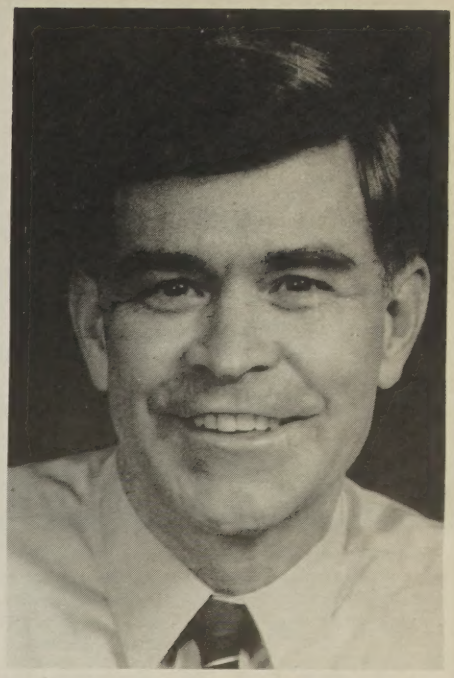
a. What is your position on including age-appropriate information about sexual orientation (including homosexuality) in your school district's health and sex education curriculum?

b. What is your position on including age-appropriate information about AIDS prevention in your health curriculum?

c. What is your position on age-appropriate abstinence-based sex education which encourages abstinence, but also includes information about birth control and disease prevention?

Guest Column by Rep. David Skaggs

We're All in This Together



With the challenges and opportunities facing American society, we can't afford to prejudge and assign any person or group to second-class status. That's as true for gays and lesbians as it is for racial or religious minorities. We're all in this together.

The measure of our success as a great and diverse nation will be how well we include all Americans in our common pursuit of the American dream. Sadly, there are still political forces at work in this country seeking to gain power and influence by emphasizing things that divide us and exploiting the tendency to fear and reject those that are "different."

It is critical for all of us to be outspoken in resisting these forces. Whether based on racism, sexism, nativism, or homophobia, they are fundamentally negative -- they fracture society and isolate individuals.

Instead, we have to champion a positive goal--a goal of community. We must counter the cheap and insidious appeal to prejudice and hate with a persistent reminder that we have to pull together, that we have an unavoidable, undeniable stake in each other.

That's why passage of the ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, is so important. We are each diminished when any one of us is denied equal opportunity. And we are each ennobled when we act together to ensure that every American has the opportunity to succeed.

There's a simple truth we should know by now. If we deliberately allow a large number of our fellow citizens to be left behind, it will come back to haunt us, morally and economically. So, a politics of inclusion and equal opportunity isn't a matter of altruism, but of enlightened self-interest.

Let's not misdefine American life in 1997 as a zero-sum game. Your gain does not have to be offset by someone else's loss. In fact, America can grow economically, socially, and morally. We can all be better off, together.

Fighting Back

continued from p. 4

getting involved in another community's struggle for justice, you can also learn about strategies that can help you be successful in your own group's work. Chances are, if you are there for other communities when they're facing an attack, they are more likely to be there for you when you need them.

One of the problems the GLBT community and others commonly face is that we only look beyond our community to do outreach when we have a crisis. At Colorado Progressive Coalition, we call this "911"-style organizing: fast, furious, and often ineffective. You may think that people only respond in a time of crisis, but if you had put in the long-term relationship and trust building with people from different backgrounds you would not need a crisis to have their support. Groups like Equality are doing this work now to save us from a "Son of Amendment 2" in 1998. But they can't do it alone. Let's build a civil rights movement that reflects the diversity of our communities. Let's start building it now, before it's too late.

Soyun Park and Bill Vandenberg are organizers with the Colorado Progressive Coalition, a statewide, cross-issue, multicultural coalition of organizations and individuals united to fight the right and to advance a proactive agenda for human rights and economic and environmental justice. They welcome your comments at (303) 866-0908.

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Upcoming Events Upcoming Events Upcoming Events Upcoming

Sunday, Oct. 26
Denver Internat'l Film Festival
6:15 p.m. @ the Tivoli
"Fire" • $10

Saturday, Nov. 1
Ridgway, CO
Claiming the Western Spirit
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
See p. 4 for more.

Sunday, Nov. 9
Boulder, CO
Beer Bust to benefit Equality Colorado
Starts at 2:00 p.m., in time for the Broncos game!
Yard of Ale, 2690 28th St., Unit C
$5 • all proceeds go to to Equality Colorado

Colorado Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum's Third Annual Conference

Fit...In the Life!

A 3-Day Fitness and Wellness Symposium for Contemporary African American Same-Gender Loving People. Sponsored by the Colorado Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, Out for Life Colorado, & the James Baldwin Social Circle. With generous support from the Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment, and the Gill Foundation.

Friday, Oct. 24 - Sunday, Oct. 26, 1997
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Rates: $35 • $45 day of event, $15 youth 18 and under. Free to CBLGLF members who have paid 1997 membership dues. Limited scholarships available.

An Ally from Holly

by Sue Anderson

Governor Romer has for many years voiced his support for and concern about the well-being of his gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender constituents. He has continually made efforts to enact fair policies, oppose anti-gay legislation and initiatives, and educate the public at large about why it is important to honor and celebrate *all* Colorado citizens regardless of their sexual orientation. His record of action to support liberty and justice for all...no exceptions speaks for itself.

Thus we honor him as an
Ally for Justice
reception
Monday, Nov. 10
Eulipions
Cultural Center
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Denver
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Individual tickets are $30 and sponsorship tickets are available for $100 (for 2) and $250 (for 4).
For more information, call (303) 839-5540.

So what's he done for us? Plenty.

Through his tenure as governor, Romer:

- Issued an Executive Order in 1990 banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in state employment
- Served as Honorary Chair of the Equal Protection Campaign during the anti-Amendment 2 ballot initiative campaign
- Created the Governor's AIDS Council, actively fought for Ryan White CARE Act funding for HIV/AIDS services, and signed a bill authorizing anonymous HIV test sites
- Supported proactive legislative efforts to add sexual orientation to the state Ethnic Intimidation Act and to pass a statewide civil rights bill providing protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation
- Vetoed legislation in 1996 and 1997 to ban same-sex marriages performed legally in other states
- Created the Commission to Study the Rights and Responsibilities of Same-Sex Partnerships
- Was instrumental in implementing a domestic partnership policy for employees at the Democratic National Committee
- Has actively spoken out on the importance of inclusiveness in our communities and increased understanding of the issues facing GLBT people and has met regularly with constituents from these communities.

Documenting Amendment 2

continued from p. 1

queer communities. Indeed, some of the most prominent and successful archives are the product of grassroots, community efforts. Archives such as the Lesbian Herstory Archives, the ONE/Institute in LA, and Chicago's Gerber-Hart Library stand out as shining examples. There's a lot more, though, than a healthy appreciation and romanticism for the past which fuels the development of GLBT archives. Documenting and preserving our history is a political act. For too long, gays and lesbians have been hidden from history and many would prefer to keep it that way. It's been up to us to make sure that historical records are not destroyed and that our contributions to society are recognized.

Whether maintaining our own archives or working with mainstream institutions, there are issues and concerns that must be addressed, including:
(1) **Safety** The threat of destruction or theft of the valuable materials that are collected remains very real unless appropriate safeguards are in place.
(2) **Censorships** Any repository worth its salt will not censor materials but will collect all aspects which are part of a group's history.
(3) **Accessibility** What happens to collections once they are donated? Are they stashed away in boxes in back rooms, or are they appropriately and effectively catalogued for use and displayed?

There's a lot more than a romanticism for the past which fuels the development of GLBT archives. Documenting and preserving our history is a political act.

The primary goal of the Amendment 2 Project is documentation and preservation. We're collecting all sorts of materials that can be considered of historic importance. This includes: organizational documents and newsletters; buttons, banners, protest placards, photos and letters; newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and radio and television coverage of the debates over GLBT rights in Colorado; legal briefs, scholarly articles, and of course personal accounts through oral interviews.

Over the next year we will be traveling across the state, videotaping interviews with a vast cross-section of Colorado's GLBT communities.

One of the things that's unique about this project is that we're collecting history in the now. We want to secure materials and personal reflections now rather than wait until memories fade or documents are destroyed. Our documenting efforts are not limited to those well-known aspects of the Amendment 2 campaign or to simply interview prominent figures. While this is of course crucial, it's equally important to move beyond the taken-for-granted, or official narratives, and capture accounts from the diverse populations which make up our communities. There are many different, unofficial stories that can and must be told.

A related aspect of this project is to find ways to make Colorado's GLBT history visible and accessible to as many people as possible. Hopefully, these collections will serve as important research materials for researchers, writers, and historians. But also, we want to find ways to educate the general public about who gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people are and the contributions that we have made to society. We've come up with a couple of ways in which these archives can be transformed into educational tools.

One way is to go cyber with history. The Internet is an exciting and viable tool which many other archives are utilizing to present historical documents, personal accounts and historical events to the online public. This is a relatively inexpensive -- and exciting -- way to bring history to the public. But in addition, it also satisfies some of the central concerns regarding safety and security. By posting photos and documents and personal accounts on the Internet, we

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Out and About: News & Notes

PREZ TO HOST HATE CRIMES CONFAB

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) - Urging Americans to fight bigotry, President Clinton announced last month he will convene the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes in November.

Clinton announced his plans in a videotaped message for the annual meeting of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, a Seattle-based organization.

"Thanks for the work you do to overcome the forces of hatred and division that are still at large in our society," Clinton said.

"In America, we are many people, but one nation, bound together by shared values," he said. "As we become an increasingly diverse society, our very future depends upon finding new ways to come together across the lines that divide us."

The Nov. 10 White House Conference on Hate Crimes will provide a forum for numerous viewpoints, bringing together the victims of hate crimes, law enforcement officials, educators and community and religious leaders, Clinton said.

"More than ever, we know we'll be strengthened when we honor the dignity and use the talents of all our people, regardless of race, or religious faith, national origin or sexual orientation, gender or disability," Clinton told the coalition.

MARRIAGE BATTLE ATTRACTS RICH, FAMOUS

Civil rights leader Coretta Scott King is one of the latest people of note to have signed the Marriage Resolution in favor of equal marriage rights for same-sex couples. So have Bea Arthur and the cast of the hit Broadway musical *Rent*.

Trivia answer from p. 8

1. Dave Kopay -- Football
2. Glenn Burke -- Baseball
3. Muffin Devlin-Spencer -- Golf
4. Gigi Fernandez -- Tennis

Extra credit: Missy Giove

FREE SCREENING EXAMS AVAILABLE FOR LESBIANS OVER 50

October is *National Breast Cancer Awareness Month*. Although women who are over 50 or who have a personal or family history of breast cancer are at greatest risk, **every woman in Colorado is at risk for getting breast cancer sometime in her lifetime**. Lesbians are perhaps at greater risk of dying from breast cancer due to lack of health insurance and limited access to cancer screening and appropriate medical care. Because we cannot prevent breast cancer, regular screening with early detection is extremely important.

The Colorado Women's Cancer Control Initiative offers FREE mammograms and breast exams to women age 50 and older who qualify based on their household income. To find out whether you qualify for a free exam call (303) 692-2600. Remember, early detection through mammography, clinical breast exams and breast self exams is your best defense against breast cancer!

GILL FOUNDATION GIVES, GIVES, GIVES

Thirty-four organizations throughout Colorado and other parts of the United States have received $676,700 in grants from the Gill Foundation, a private foundation based in Colorado Springs, for the grant cycle ending in September, 1997. The Gill Foundation focuses on programs for gay men and lesbians; issues dealing with HIV/AIDS; and other social justice causes. The Gill Foundation issues grants three times a year.

Katherine Pease, Executive Director of the Gill Foundation said, "This funding cycle reflects our deep commitment to developing the capacity of local organizations to do their work more effectively. We are particularly excited about our support for the 14 organizations who are receiving Gill Foundation grants for the first time."

Added Gill Foundation Program Officer Erika Shatz, "We are inspired by the many dedicated people at rural grass-roots organizations who use courage, creativity, and common sense to overcome challenges and promote dignity and equality for all people."

Some of the grants announced as part of the fall grant cycle include:

- $100,000 (over 2 years) to National Center for Lesbian Rights (San Francisco)
- $100,000 (over 2 years) to Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (New York)
- $50,000 to Chesney-Kleinjohn Housing Inc., Denver's largest AIDS independent living facility
- $46,500 to National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization -- also known as LLEGO (Wash, DC)
- $25,000 to Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (San Francisco)
- $30,000 to Mi Casa Resource Center's FENIX program (Denver)
- $30,000 to Denver Public Library for Gay and Lesbian Collection
- $15,000 to Northern Colorado AIDS Project (Fort Collins)
- $10,500 to Lambda Community Center (Fort Collins)
- $10,000 to Adoption Exchange (Denver)
- $10,000 to Rocky Mountain Media Watch (Denver)
- $10,000 to Hospice of Metro Denver

The Gill Foundation was established in 1994 by Tim Gill, the founder and chairman of Quark, Inc., a Denver-based computer software company. The mission of the foundation is to support the needs of under-served and under-funded communities in their struggle for equality. In addition to providing grants, the foundation operates special programs providing technical assistance and other resources to support the communities it serves. Since its inception, the Gill Foundation, which has offices in Colorado and Washington, DC., has provided over $5 million to hundreds of community organizations.

For more information on the Gill Foundation, including funding guidelines, please call 719-473-4455.

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bring history to life, but also keep valuable documents safe from theft or destruction.

A second project currently underway is an oral history project. This approach is used by most historians and archivists in order to ascertain individual accounts and recollections of historic periods. Our goal is again to extend the reach of our interviews to outlying areas of the state. In addition, another related project is one of my favorites: the video history project. Over the next year we will be traveling across the state, videotaping interviews with a vast cross-section of Colorado's GLBT communities. In the end, we hope to produce a documentary which can be used for educational purposes, as a way to give a face to the struggles over GLBT civil rights in Colorado.

The Amendment 2 Project makes up only a small part of a larger historical program committed toward documenting and preserving queer history. Many prominent local queer activists, scholars, authors, and historians have come together to form the GLBT History Project, which meets monthly. They are committed to insuring that the rich history of Colorado's queer cultures are preserved for future generations.

There are a number of ways you can contribute to this effort. We are always looking for volunteers to help with cataloguing and organizing the documents and materials that are donated to the collection. We are also in need of individuals who are interested in assisting with the oral history project and the video history project. At the very least, please consider donating your own personal materials to the archives. This collection will only be as successful as the community makes it.

If you have any questions concerning the Amendment 2 Project or if you would like to volunteer in some capacity, we want to hear from you! Feel free to call me, Karen Main @ (303) 208-4074 or Stan Oliner at the Colorado Historical Society @ (303) 866-4603. For more on the GLBT History Project, call Equality Colorado at (303) 839-5540.

Karen Main is a student, teacher, writer, archivist and amateur videographer. She is convinced that somehow, some way, some sort of balance can be achieved in her life between work and play.

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Notable Quotables

"I don't even consider myself bisexual. Frankly, I just think of myself as a 'people person.'"

Michael Dane

"[Once] I was performing at a comedy club and when I said I'm a lesbian, a guy in the audience yelled out, "Can I watch?" I said, "Watch me what? Fix my car?"

Sabrina Matthews

"I'm afraid the gay 'marriage' thing might win. I think the homosexual activists are likely to do well in the Supreme Court."

Hope from Judge Robert Bork, former Supreme Court nominee

"If homosexuality is a disease, let's all call in queer to work. 'Hello, can't work today. Still queer.'"

Robin Tyler

"God loves every person as a unique individual. Sexual identity helps to define the unique person we are. God does not love someone any less simply because he or she is homosexual."

National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a message entitled "Always Our Children"

"Yes, I was a teen-age lesbian. And while that may sound like a horror movie to some of you, for me I could subtitle that period of my life, *Adventures in Paradise*, because there was one thing that we gay teen-agers could do that our straight friends couldn't. I could say, "'Hey, Mom, Michelle's comin' over to spend the night Friday night, O.K.?'

"'O.K., Honey!'"

Marilyn Pittman

"I came out to my straight friend and told her that I'm a lesbian. The first thing she said to me was: 'Really? Do you know Jill McGee? She's a lesbian in Philadelphia!'

"Pardon me for laughing, but straight people are so funny! They think we all know each other! Actually, I do know her. But, hey, it's just a coincidence!"

Karen Ripley, from Berkeley, CA

"I'm here to tell you that there are only two flavors of mankind: male and female. There is no such thing as a homosexual."

Will Perkins

"I apologize to lesbian and gay Americans who are demeaned and dehumanized on a regular basis by the false, irresponsible, and inflammatory rhetoric of James Dobson's anti-gay radio and print materials."

Gil Alexander-Moegerle, Co-Founder, Focus on the Family

"Nothing, be it illness, poverty, or loneliness or other misfortunes, distresses me more than having nothing to wear."

Isak Dinesen

Trivia see page 7 for the answers

The following professional athletes all came out of the closet. What sport did/does each play?

1. Dave Kopay
2. Glenn Burke
3. Muffin Devlin-Spencer
4. Gigi Fernandez

Extra credit: What openly queer champion downhill mountain biker lives in Durango, CO?

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